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Studio Assignment 1: Rough Draft

Metadata:

Title: Ancient Greece Declassified

Description: This website provides podcasts which make the “Classics” accessible to everyone. Each podcast goes in-depth about a certain topic and opens the door of knowledge to those that wouldn’t normally have the chance to access it.

URL: greecepodcast.com

Author(s): Jason Webley, Lantern Jack

Place: Podcast (not entirely sure where this is from)

Date Created: Updated: 2019

Date Accessed: February 6, 2019

Availability: free

Content:

This project is super interesting in that instead of having chunks of text in order to present information, it has podcasts which engage a variety of people. Different topics include: America’s Greco-Roman Legacies, Platonic Love, Homer’s Meta-Odyssey, and so much more. The scholarly argument is essentially that anthropology can explain a lot about the historical past and the only thing left for us to do is uncover it. The data is organized in a podcast format and presented on the front screen of the website in episode form. They focus on different topics and go into detail with the analysis. The presentation of it makes the information easily accessible to all types of people in all walks of life. Episodes are so easy to watch and understand and allow the audience to be entertained while also informed. Podcasts are hugely digital, in fact they can only exist in a digital format unlike articles and texts. The author is utilizing digital media in a way that is interesting and accessible. As far as I can tell, there aren’t many factual errors present in this project. The main contributors are the site runner Jason and the narrator Lantern Jack. I think in terms of life cycle this is a work in progress. They seem to still be contributing episodes to the project and providing more information to people. The project’s interface is pretty flawless, it is easy to navigate and really attractive to look at.

In order to gain a deeper understanding of what the website really has to offer, I explored an episode that I found to be super interesting representations of Ancient Greece. The first one I took a look at is called “Platonic Love w/ Zina Giannopoulou”. This episode goes into the concept of platonic love as theorized by Plato and discusses the Symposium—Plato’s book that first introduces the concept of platonic love and answers the ultimate question of: what is love? The Symposium is a philosophical dialogue that features a cast of people that talk about what love is. Socrates is the main character in this book and is presented along with a group of other famous characters. Zina goes into describing what a “symposium” really is—a drinking party where aristocratic men get together to drink and talk about ideas and intellectual matters. Athenian women on the other hand do not seem to have any record of having get togethers such as these, but we like to hope they did. They decided to discuss love and mixed water with their wine in order to keep their wits about them in this conversation. Zina goes into describing the

different types of love that exist within ancient Greece and that they discussed mostly all types of love within their conversation. After listening through the podcast, a few thoughts came to mind. The first, it was really convenient having an analysis of one of the famous classic novels spoken about instead of written. Hearing Zina talk about the Symposium was more intriguing than having to read about it. However, I do have a few criticisms. The first being that I wish they had a transcript of the podcast. It makes it easier to follow along when there is something to read and easier not to get distracted or zone out. Secondly, on the same note as following along, if they created these episodes including visuals and not just as podcasts, I really think the audience reach would expand. Having pictures or videos to look at while they moderator and guest are talking makes it more entertaining and ultimately a lot simpler to follow along to. I found myself zoning out at points and rewinding to catch what Zina was saying. Which is unfortunate because she was adding a lot of good thoughts to the podcast! If adding video or pictures is not a plausible idea, maybe adding just one photo to the front of the episode would attract more attention. Such as a photo of the guest, a visual description of what the podcast is about, or even just the cover of the novel they were referring to in the podcast. Additionally, adding a link to the novel would have been helpful for those interested in reading the novel to gain more insight on what Zina was talking about.

Overall, the website does do a good job in increasing access to the general public about the Classics and does a decent job making the episodes interesting. There are a few flaws that could easily be fixed and may increase traffic on the website, educating more people on the roots of our society. I can't say this is a website I would visit often. Had the podcasts been episodes with videos accompanying them, I would be much more inclined to visit often. I myself am not a huge fan of podcasts because they are often difficult to focus on, however including visual aids would increase my chances of paying attention. I would however recommend this website to friends that were interested in learning about the Classics or even just in learning something new. It had loads of information and is definitely an educator's resource with all the material provided. Once the website takes off more and they have created tens of episodes, I do think it will take off in the intellectual community as an easily accessible information project in order to educate the masses about a forgotten topic. Ultimately, I would definitely recommend this website to anyone interested in the Classics, but also website design and appealing layout. They definitely did a great job in attracting me to discover the site in the first place!